EDWARD RAVENSCROFT, MMR #7

EDWARD A. RAVENSCROFT

To the members of the NMRA the name of Ravenscroft has been linked many times to the growth of our organization.

Although Edward was born many years before the founding of the NMRA, it wasn't until 1940 that he became a member.

From the very first his interest and activity in the NMRA was felt. He became a member of the Engineering Committee in 1942 and Chairman of the HO Standards Committee in 1943. In 1944 he became President of the NMRA and served two terms. It was during this period that the NMRA became recognized and respected by the manufacturers.

Under the able direction of President Ravenscroft the Advisory Council was created, the accounting system was changed, dues were increased to $2.00 to finance an expanded program of services such as the Data sheets, compiling of the first Index, increased the *Bulletin* to a monthly publication, the Inspection program and increasing the Regional organization from 1 to 5 regions. The Standards were rearranged and modernized with the cooperation of the manufacturers and by the use of direct mail and other promotional schemes, the membership was raised from 780 to 6000 members.

(Continued from Page 1)

For one brief term in 1946, Edward was Chairman of the Inspection Committee when his services were directed to the job of Treasurer from 1947 through 1950. In this office he introduced modern accounting and cost records which enabled the Board to plan for the future of the NMRA with greater accuracy. He was Chairman of the Committee that found and set up Bob Bast as office manager and he wrote a complete manual of procedures for the office manager and the Treasurer.

Edward's other activities as Vice-President of Abbott Laboratories, Director of Abbott Laboratories International Company, Vice-President of the Board of Managers of the Highland Park Hospital and member of numerous other organizations, demands much of his time although he does find time for the Glencoe Skokie Valley Railroad, an HO gage, 2 rail model pike with 600 feet of track. It was on this layout that he developed the Autostar Control and tested the various ideas that later appeared as articles in the *Model Railroader*.

Edward's one regret is that although he has two sons, Eddie Jr., age 17 (who is a hot drummer) and Bob, age 11 (an enthusiastic boy scout), neither are particularly interested in model railroading.

Ravenscroft Wins Top Honor

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARDED EX-PRESIDENT

The highest tribute NMRA can pay —honorary membership—was bestowed on former president Ed Ravenscroft at the 1953 convention in Toronto.

He thus became the third man in NMRA's 20-year history to win the coveted honor. Presenting the award was Al Kalmbach of Milwaukee, Wisc., publisher of *Model Railroader* and the first person to be awarded honorary membership. (The other is Bernie Gottlieb of Detroit, Mich.)

"Nine years ago, at the Pittsburgh convention, the NMRA nominated for president, and later elected, a quiet young man who had been inconspicuously pursuing his hobby in Glencoe, Illinois," said Kalmbach in his presentation address.

"He had served one 'year on the NMRA engineering committee and the second year as the chairman of that committee, submitting to that same Pittsburgh convention one of the finest engineering reports the NMRA had ever received—one which met with favor both from the membership and from the manufacturers, and resulted in the smooth-running HO standards which are so universally accepted today. It was undoubtedly that report which won him the nomination as our president.

"However, what the membership did not fully realize at that time was the background of this man outside of model railroading activities. He was chief engineer and a member of the board of directors of one of the country's largest pharmaceutical manufacturing companies. His background in-

(See RAVENSCROFT, Page 8)

Ravenscroft

(Continued from Page 1)

cluded not only an engineering education but experience in cost accounting and a thorough grounding as a successful business executive.

"The new NMRA president had only been in office for a little bit more than a week before he had the Johnson bar down on the corner and the cinders flying. Our formerly intimate little association of some 1,000 members suddenly found itself in for a pilot-to-caboose overhauling and a period of growth such as it had never known before.

"Ed Ravenscroft recast the basic frame-work of the association, created new services for the membership, and instituted for the first time really sound financial policies."

Beyond and above any of Ravenscroft's direct contributions to the NMRA, said Kalmbach, is the influence he had on the others who worked with him.

"Ed has never been a man who likes to do everything himself," said Kalmbach. "He is modest, and has never been one to seek personal glory. From the very beginning of his first administration he was quick to realize that there were many other people within the NMRA who had talents to contribute to our national organization. I think that his greatest achievement for us was the way he brought out the best in others and the way he got them to contribute their thoughts and their efforts on behalf of the entire membership. . . ."